

F820004-1839

NO. 1796

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, DECEMBER 10, 1935.

DIVISION OF WESTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

FEB 1936
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
EASTERN AFFAIRS
JAN 31 1936
Department of State

SUBJECT: CASE OF HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF STATE
JAN 7 1936

1936 JAN 7

I have the honor to refer to the Department's

instruction of November 16, 1935, (File No. 130 -

Erben, Hermann Frederick) enclosing a copy, in trans-
lation, of a letter to Hermann Frederick Erben dated
November 16, 1934, signed by me which Mr. Erben later
used as a travel document.

In this connection the Department is respectfully
informed that in accordance with its instruction of
October 8, 1934, (File No. 130 - Erben, Hermann Frederick)
the duplicate Seaman's Protection Certificate, issued
by the Department of Commerce to Mr. Erben, which was
enclosed was delivered to the latter on November 12,
1934, upon his declaration that he would proceed to
Hamburg within the next few days and endeavor to sign
on

130- ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

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on some vessel bound for the United States.

On November 18, 1934, Mr. Erben came to the Consulate General and asked for a letter explaining why he was compelled to travel on a Seaman's Certificate instead of a passport because the German Consulate in Vienna had refused to grant him a transit visa through Germany unless he presented such a letter. This request was not considered out of the ordinary because several Foreign Consulates in Vienna refuse to grant visas to American citizens in the absence of a letter from this office confirming their identity.

As Mr. Erben had become somewhat of a nuisance and it was believed desirable to have him return to the United States as soon as possible the letter was given to him under the assumption that it would be handed immediately to the German Consulate. A serious mistake was made by the clerk who wrote the letter in addressing it to Mr. Erben instead of directly to the German Consulate and much to my regret this fact escaped my notice when I signed it. That the letter was not given to the official for whom it was intended did not become known to this Consulate General until the receipt of a copy of the despatch addressed by the American Consul in Calcutta to the Department on September 14, 1935.

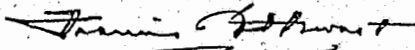
There is attached hereto a copy, in translation, of a form letter which this office has for many years been furnishing to American citizens who desire to obtain

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obtain a visa for Egypt, France, Poland or Spain because the Consular officers of these countries in Vienna demand that such a letter be furnished before they will grant a visa. I should like to know if this assistance to Americans can be continued. While there are not many American travelers seeking visas here for the other countries a considerable number of our citizens, particularly Jewish students returning to the United States, travel through France.

Respectfully yours,


Francis R. Stewart
American Consul

Enclosure:

File No. 130.8
FRS/ow

0315087000

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TRANSLATION :

File No. 130.8

American Consulate General
Vienna, Austria,
(Date)

To the ? Consul
in Vienna.

Sir:

Mr.)
Mrs.) ? an American citizen, requests
Miss)
you to kindly visa his (her) passport No. ?
dated ? for ?

Very respectfully yours,

American Consul

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*File
of
5-8-35*

Div. of Foreign Control
MAY 8 - 1935
Department of State

Re: Dr. HERMAN F. ERBEN

Paris, April 24, 1935.

Memorandum for Division of Foreign Control.

Reference is made to Memorandum for Division of Foreign Control dated April 13, 1935, concerning Dr. Herman F. ERBEN.

The New York Herald of Paris, April 21, 1935, prints the following:

"April 21, 1935.

3 MEN LEAVE VIENNA ON 20,000 MILE JAUNT.
VIENNA, April 20 (U.P.)

Three men in a motorcar started from here today on a journey that will take them more than 20,000 miles through Asia on a scientific expedition. They are: Max REISCH, Austrian sportsman; Dr. Herman F. ERBEN, of San Francisco, and Helmuth HANAUER, Vienna photographer.

Dr. ERBEN, a scientist formerly attached to the Pacific Institute of Tropical Medicine, wishes to study the natives of those parts of Asia through which the expedition will pass."

f.w. 130 Erben, Hermann FREDERICK

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1935
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE